

**MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
UTILITY DIVISION
AGENDA NO. 99-1-19**

Date Prepared: January 14, 1999
For Work Week Commencing: January 19, 1999
Business Meeting: January 19, 1999, 10:00 a.m.

General Introduction This agenda is the Commission's Utility Division agenda for the work week designated. In the later part of each week (generally, Thursday by 2:00 p.m.) prior to the work week to which an agenda pertains, the agenda is posted on the public information bulletin board at the Commission offices, deposited in the mail directed to all persons who have properly requested notice by mail, placed on the state electronic bulletin board, and posted to the Public Service Commission's worldwide web site located at <http://www.psc.mt.gov>.

Place of Meetings All meetings are held at the Commission offices, 1701 Prospect Avenue, Helena, Montana, unless otherwise noted.

Inquiries General inquiries concerning this Utility Division agenda and subscribing to notice by mail may be made to Dennis Crawford at (406) 444-6182 or Dan Elliott at (406) 444-6187. They may refer inquiries to another person within the agency.

Accommodation for Persons with Disabilities Anyone needing an accommodation for physical, hearing, or sight impairment in order to attend a scheduled meeting should contact the Commission secretary at (406) 444-6199 sufficiently prior to the meeting to allow accommodations to be made.

Work Sessions All items identified below are for Commission discussion or action on the day designated (Dan).

1. USWC Docket D96.12.220 – NWPA vs PSC & USWC – Discussion and action on pending judicial review, as needed, if needed (1/20/99)
2. USWC Docket D97.5.87 – USWC 271 investigation – Discussion and action on special master decision #3 (clarification)(1/20/99)
3. Columbia Heights Water D98.10.246 – Columbia Heights Company water complaint – Discussion, direction, action on motion for reconsideration of Order No. 6132 (1/20/99)
4. Coalition Against Unfair Utility Competition Docket D98.11.269 – Coalition Against Unfair Utility Competition vs MDU – Discussion, direction, action on Coalition motion for reconsideration of Order No. 6122 and possible legislation (i.e., LC 1086) on utility competition in appliance merchandising and servicing (1/20/99)
5. Dockets D98.10.220 thru D98.10.236 – Various IntraLATA Dialing Parity Plans – Discuss and act on Valley, Central and Project's intraLATA equal access plans; discuss Clark Fork's equal access plan and act on various motions (1/20/99)

Weekly Scheduling Meeting – Will be held at 9:45 a.m. on the day of the Business Meeting

Action Items All items identified below are for action at the Commission business meeting.

1. Ronan Telephone Company- Docket N98.12.292 (Bonnie)

On December 22, 1998, Ronan Telephone Company submitted a Notice of Application for New Service, pursuant to 69-3-810, MCA and 38.5.2735 ARM, seeking approval of Voice Mail Service as a detariffed new service. The filing meets compliance and no party has filed an objection or request for hearing. Staff recommends approval.

2. CENTRAL MONTANA COMMUNICATIONS – Docket N98.12.293(Nina)

On December 24, 1998, Central Montana Communications filed tariff pages to remove Zone Charges by combining Zone 3 with Zone 2. This will be accomplished by reducing Zone 3 subscribers Zone Charge by \$3.00, to become effective February 15, 1999. This was a notice item on 1/11/99. Staff recommends approval.

3. MCI TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORP. – Docket N98.12.295(Nina)

On December 28, 1998, MCI Telecommunications filed Transmittal Letter No. 98-20, reflecting a minor text changes to implement the card surcharges for Option X (Advanced Option II for Small Business), Option AA (MCI One Savings) and Option CC (MCI One Advantage). This was a notice item on 1/11/99. Staff recommends approval.

4. SPRINT COMMUNICATIONS – Docket N98.12.297 (Nina)

On December 30, 1998, Sprint Communications Co., filed minor text changes to Sprint Unlimited. This was a notice item on 1/11/99. Staff recommends approval.

5. VoiceCom Systems, Inc, Premiere Communications Inc, American Services, LTD and Voice-Tel Enterprises, Inc – Docket N99.1.3 (Leroy)

On December 31, 1998, VoiceCom Systems, Inc., Premiere Communications, Inc., American Teleconferencing Services, LTD., and Voice-Tel Enterprises, Inc. filed a joint application for sale of assets, merger and cancellation of certificate. There will be a sale and transfer of VoiceCom assets to ATS and Voice-Tel, merger of VoiceCom with and into Premier Communications and cancellation of VoiceCom's authority to resell intrastate, interexchange telecommunications services in Montana. VoiceCom will cease to exist after consummation of these transactions. Staff recommends approval.

Notice Items All items identified below are noticed for public participation purposes. Unless otherwise stated in the text of the notice, the items will be action items on the next following agenda or a subsequent agenda and participation may be had by submitting written comments to the Public Service Commission, 1701 Prospect Avenue, P.O. Box 202601, Helena, Montana, 59620-2601, within 5 calendar days following publication of this agenda.

1. MDU RESOURCES GROUP, INC. DOCKET NO. D99.1.1 (Eric)

On December 29, 1998 MDU Resource Group, Inc filed an application for authority to issue up to \$400,000,000 of long-term financing over a two-year period of some or all of the following kinds of securities, but in each case within the maximum limits for each kind; 400,000,000 of the Company's Common Stock, \$40,000,000 worth of the Company's Preferred Stock and/or preferred Stock A, and/or \$120,000,000 principal amount of the Company's secured debt securities. The Company seeks the flexibility to vary the maximum issuance amount for each type of security, so long as the aggregate issuance amount of all such securities does not exceed \$400,000,000.

2. **RONAN TELEPHONE CO. - Docket N99.1.4 (INFORMATION ONLY)**Kate

On January 6, 1999, Ronan Telephone Co. filed a forbearance application for purposes of negotiating an individual customer contract with Jore, Inc. of Ronan. The application was automatically granted one day after the date of filing because the application was complete and was served in full compliance with ARM 38.5.2715-16. No commission action is required.

3. **Citizens Communications - N99.1.5** (Wendy)

On January 13, 1999, Citizens Communications filed Advice Letter No. MT-99-01 to introduce two additional CLASS services – Caller ID With Name –per line, and Caller ID with Name –Value PAK. The associated minimum rates, the current price list, and supporting cost data for the new offerings were also filed.

4. **US West Communications – N98.12.284** (Wendy)

On December 4, 1998, U S WEST Communications filed a Tariff Transmittal 98-53 "Introduction of Centrex Prime." Centrex Prime is a new retail product offered as an alternative to PBX systems for business customers and offers a platform to deliver integrated Video, Voice, Image, and Data services. The rates will be set on an individual case basis following a set of standard pricing guidelines. The service includes basic (analog) and ISDN (digital) access lines.

Information Items All items identified below are for information only.
D98.10.246 Columbia Heights Water Complaint – Notice of Staff Action –
Waived 10 day rule on reconsideration

Tentative Action Items for Agenda 99-1-25

Docket N99.1.5 – Citizens Communications -Wendy

New Filings Received in Past Week

N99.1.4 – Ronan Telephone Co – Forbearance application for Jore, Inc.

N99.1.5 – Citizens Communications – Tariff revisions